TL 3605-2

OMCT
OPERATING THE SOS-TORTURE NETWORK

ORGANISATION MONDIALE CONTRE LA TORTURE
WORLD ORGANIZATION AGAINST TORTURE
Director Eric Sottas

CASE POSTALE 119 - 37-39, RUE DE VERMONT
CH 1211 GENÈVE 20 CIC
TÉLÉPHONE +4122-733 31 40
FAX +4122-733 10 51

ELECTRONIC MAIL OMCT@GEONET.POPTEL.ORG.UK
OMCT@IPROLINK.CH

Case IDN/TMP 041296

The International Secretariat of OMCT requests your **URGENT** intervention in the following situation in **East Timor**.

Brief description of the situation:
The International Secretariat has been informed, by reliable sources, of the presumed disappearance on 25 November 1996 of Mr **Pantaleao Rosario PIRES** and his brother Mr **Joao Rangel R PIRES**.

Mr **Pantaleao Rosario PIRES** and his brother Mr **Joao Rangel R PIRES**, from the village of Maabat Vila in Manatuto, were arrested when returning home after allegedly attending a demonstration in Dili in support of Bishop Belo. It is believed that they have been accused of organising the demonstration. However, the information suggests, they may have been arbitrarily arrested for taking part in a peaceful demonstration. Their whereabouts is unknown.

Local authorities are believed to be responsible for their disappearance and it is feared that if they are in detention they may be subjected to torture and ill-treatment. Past practice suggests that political prisoners in East Timor are frequently subjected to torture. Such detainees are also denied access to independent legal advice and assistance from the International Committee of the Red Cross.

At least **five other East Timorese people** have also been arrested in relation to the 25 November demonstration.

According to a report by Reuters dated 30 November, the Indonesian police have threatened heavy punishment for three East Timorese protesters who also participated in the demonstration. East Timor Chief of Police Colonel Jusuf Mucharam said: "The thing they did was an action that spread hatred against the head of the state, so they can receive a heavy punishment of 20 years in jail."

The demonstration on 25 November was a peaceful pro-independence demonstration which was attended by at least 400 youths who gathered in front of the Catholic Diocese building in Dili to show their support for Bishop Belo.

Action requested :
Please write to the Indonesian authorities urging them to :

i. locate the whereabouts of Mr **Pantaleao Rosario PIRES** and his brother Mr **Joao Rangel R PIRES** and guarantee the physical and psychological integrity of all the people detained;

ii. order their immediate release if they are detained without valid charges or, if such charges exist, bring them before a competent and impartial civil tribunal and guarantee their procedural rights at all times;

iii. guarantee an impartial and exhaustive enquiry into the arrests, disappearances and other grave human rights violations, identify those responsible, bring them to trial and apply the penal, civil and/or administrative sanctions provided by legislation

iv. ensure in all circumstances respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with national laws and international standards.

Addresses:
MINISTER OF JUSTICE M. Haji Utoyo Usman S.H., Menteri Kehakiman, JI. H.R. Rasuna Said Kav. 6-7, Kuningan, Jakarta Selatan, Indonesia. Fax : + 62 21 314 1625

MILITARY COMMANDER REGION IX/UDAYANA (includes East Timor)
Maj Gen H.A. Rivai, Pangdam IX/Udayana, Markas Besar KODAM IX/Udayana, Denpasar, Bali, INDONESIA Telegrams: Pangdam IX/Udayana, Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia

CHIEF OF POLICE FOR EAST TIMOR
Colonel Yusuf Mucharam, Kapolda Timor Timur, Dili, East Timor, INDONESIA
Telegrams: Kapolda, Dili, East Timor

SECRETARY GENERAL, NATIONAL COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Prof. Dr. Baharuddin Lopa, Sekretaris Jenderal, Komisi Nasional Hak Azasi Manusia (Komnas HAM), Jl Pemuda No.104, Rawamangun, Jakarta Timur, INDONESIA Faxes: +62 21 470 0775

Geneva, 4 December 1996

Kindly inform us of any action undertaken quoting the code of this appeal in your reply